



Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102
Docket #: R.20-08-020

Dear Governor Newsom,

As members of Business for Good San Diego, we believe that a cleaner San Diego means a thriving future for us all, we are requesting your support to protect rooftop solar in California and expand access to all ratepayers.

California has suffered the devastating effects of the accelerating climate crisis in 2020, with wildfires displacing hundreds of thousands of people and producing some of the worst air quality in California history. We must also acknowledge that the communities that suffer the worst from the effects of climate change, and often those who contribute the least to it, are low-income communities of color. It is clear more now than ever, that California leaders need to enact bold policies to stop the climate crisis, while building a more resilient and safe energy grid.

Thankfully, we do have solutions. California has long been a leader in adopting solar energy with over a million Californians generating their own renewable energy onsite with more than 75,000 jobs created, billions of dollars of economic benefit to the state and there is one policy that is vital to that investment: net energy metering (NEM).

Net metering allows individuals and organizations to power their homes, apartments, businesses, cities and schools using clean solar energy, by giving customers a bill credit for the excess electricity they share with their neighbors. Today, this is under attack. California's investor-owned utilities are proposing to make changes to this vital policy that would make it nearly impossible for Californians to go solar even though Assembly Bill 327 has a clause that directs the California Public Utilities Commission to adopt a NEM policy that ensures solar will continue to "grow sustainably." The proposed changes would make going solar more expensive, increase the amount of time it takes to pay off systems and ultimately have the potential to eliminate the solar market in California.

As we work to stop the climate crisis and transition away from fossil fuels, it is imperative that we give Californians the tools they need to lower their energy bills. Rooftop solar is a pillar of the

City of San Diego's Climate Action Plan and the state has said that we need to triple the amount of rooftop solar in order to meet the state's 100 percent clean energy goal. We should not be taking clean energy solutions away from people, we should be making it easier and more affordable to go solar, especially for individuals in communities of concern.

There are also significant cost-savings for ratepayers. The deployment of more rooftop solar will reduce the need for new, expensive utility infrastructure, potentially saving California ratepayers \$120 billion. Transitioning to clean energy has the potential to create 374,000 new jobs in the state all while reducing CO2 emissions and helping us meet our local climate action plan goals. The deployment of more rooftop solar will be especially crucial as we move towards electrification and increased adoption of electric vehicles.

The pandemic has hit small businesses really hard, and solar power as well as programs through local community choice energy programs offer businesses relief. Please don't take away these opportunities.

We urge you to protect net energy metering. Drastic changes to the NEM program by the California Public Utilities Commission will negatively impact consumers, support environmental injustices, accelerate the climate crisis and shatter California's clean energy industry. Other states look to California as a model for transitioning to clean energy and what happens here will shape the clean energy landscape across the United States. As we emerge from the economic and public health crises caused by COVID-19, we urge you to maintain the benefits of solar energy for all Californians, and invest in a stronger NEM for communities of concern.

Signed,



Mikey Knab
Board Chair, Business For Good San Diego

cc: Members of the California Public Utilities Commission